

May 1, 2024 // The Rev. David Curtis

May the Lord be with you!

In 1977, at the Stonewall Theater in Clifton Forge, VA, I saw Star Wars on the big screen, and my life changed. I wanted desperately to become a Jedi Knight of the Old Republic, so I could say, “May the Force be with you!” I am sad to say that my dream has yet to be fulfilled. Instead, I become the next best thing: an Episcopalian.

Like perhaps some of you, I was raised an Episcopalian. However, I made the decisions in my 30’s to stay an Episcopalian. And there are many, many reasons why. Our prayers are sumptuous, and our hymnody is sublime. Our theology, as wonky as it can be, allows for a wide range of beliefs.

One of the things that I love most about being an Episcopalian is when I hear “The Lord be with you.” This ancient greeting, which predates any of our Books of Common Prayer, is a call to prayer. When I hear these words, something shifts inside of me. When I hear these words, I know that we will gather, as one, to be present to God.

And there is another, deeper meaning for me. When we say, “The Lord be with you”, and we respond, “And also with you”, it is a reminder that God is, in fact, always with us. God is with us at the communion rail and at the grocery store. God is with us at the bed side and at the gas station. God is with us as we hold new life, and God is with us as we hold those whose lives are ending. God is always with us.

May the Lord be with you this day and every day. And as God walks with you, may you make this world a better place, through your love, your presence, and your faith.